

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 02115 031439Z

41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 FEAE-00

AGR-05 IGA-02 /103 W

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P R 031403Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8115

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, KE, ETRD

SUBJECT: KENYAN DOCKWORKERS CONTINUE TO BOYCOTT UGANDAN CARGO

REF NAIROBI 2010 (NOTAL)

1. CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS (SEE REFTTEL), MOMBASA DOCK-
WORKERS HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO GOK INSTRUCTIONS TO LIFT TRADE
BOYCOTT AGAINST UGANDAN GOODS. EMBASSY LEARNED FROM
MOORE-MCCORMACK REPRESENTATIVE AT PORT MARCH 2 THAT
UGANDAN EXPORTS--PGINCIPALLY COFFEE--WERE NOT BEING
ONLOADED. IMPORTS DESTINED TO UGANDA WERE BEING OFFLOADED
ONLY WHEN PACKED TOGETHER WITH KENYAN IMPORTS. ACCORDING
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TO PRIVATE BUSINESS CONTACT, SHIPMENT OF NEWLY-PRINTED

UGANDAN CURRENCY REMAINED ON BOARD VESSEL DESPITE APPEALS FROM GOU TO EXEMPT OFFICIAL PROPERTY. SHIP HAS REPORTEDLY DEPARTED MOMBASA.

2. NAIROBI STANDARD REPORTED MARCH 3 THAT PRESIDENT AMIN HAS CHARGED KENYA WITH CONFISCATION OF UGANDAN PROPERTY, ALLUDING TO RECENT LIBYAN SHIPMENT OF MILITARY VEHICLES SITTING ON MOMBASA DOCKS. GOK MINISTER OF POWER AND COMMUNICATIONS DENIED ALLEGATIONS THAT UGANDAN GOODS HAD BEEN QUOTE SEIZED ON KENYAN SOIL UNQUOTE. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE STANDARD, OGEMBO INTIMATED THAT NORMAL TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS AND INTRA-EAC HANDLING DIFFICULTIES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERY DELAYS.

3. DAILY NATION ARTICLE MARCH 3 PUBLICIZED GOU DENIAL THAT IT HAD SUSPENDED ALL IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENCES FOR KENYAN TRADE--A RUMOR PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN NAIROBI PRESS.

4. COMMENT: TRADE BOYCOTT HAS APPARENTLY BEEN MAINTAINED WITH SUPPORT OF COAST PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER. GOK HAS MADE NO OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTINUING BOYCOTT AND NAIROBI PRESS HAS AVOIDED TOPIC SINCE WEEKEND. SINCE GOK HAS POWER TO ENFORCE FREE MOVEMENT OF UGANDAN GOODS THRU PORT, FURTHER BOYCOTTING BY DOCKWORKERS OBVIOUSLY ENJOYS AT LEAST TACIT GOVERNMENT APPROVAL. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON UGANDA, WHICH LIVES FROM HAND TO MOUTH UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, BECOMING SERIOUS. ALTHOUGH VITAL IMPORTS SUCH AS FOOD AND PETROLEUM REPORTEDLY FLOWING SMOOTHLY FROM KENYAN SUPPLIERS, COFFEE EXPORTS ARE FAST ACCUMULATING IN MOMBASA WAREHOUSES. ACCORDING TO SHIPPING AGENTS, CLOSE TO 24,000 TONS ALREADY HELD UP. WITH HEIGHT OF COFFEE HARVEST SEASON APPROACHING AND RECORD PRICE ON WORLD MARKET, UGANDA RISKS FORFEITING VALUABLE FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

DECONTROL 3/3/80
MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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